

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SSO-00 ARA-06 EB-07 AID-05

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 /094 W

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R 181623Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2389

INFO AMEMBASSY BELIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10090

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENTS ON PORTUGAL

1. SOVIET LEAD STORIES (JULY 18) REPORT THE WITHDRAWAL OF POPULAR DEMOCRATS FROM THE CABINET, AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE PRESS COVERAGE IS TO LAY THE BLAME FOR THE "POLITICAL CRISIS" ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE SOCIALISTS AND THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS WHO OSTENSIBLY PLACED THEIR "NARROW FRACTIONAL INTERESTS" AHEAD OF THE FATE OF THE REVOLUTION AND THE NATION. VARIOUS PRESS COMMENTS ALSO SUGGEST THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WIDENING GULF BETWEEN THE AFM AND THE COMMUNISTS ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE "REACTIONARY" FORCES ON

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THE OTHER.

2. DURING THE JULY 17 QUADRIpartite MEETING, THE BRITISH CHARGE REPORTED HE WAS TOLD JULY 14 BY (FNU) RUBINSKIY, AN IMEMO OFFICIAL WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN PORTUGAL, THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDERED THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION SUI GENERIS; RUBINSKIY CLAIMED THIS WAS A CONCEPT THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTIES "WOULD UNDERSTNAD." WHEN ASKED TO ELABORATE, RUBINSKIY REPLIED THAT, IN THIS CONTEXT, PORTUGAL WAS MORE COMPARABLE TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES THAN TO OTHERS IN EUROPE. THE BRITISH OFFICIAL ASKED WHETHER RUBINSKIY MEANT CUBA AS A PARALLEL. RUBINSKIY SAID THAT CUBA WAS NOT COMPARABLE; THAT THE AFM IS "A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE IN AND OF ITSELF," THUS OBTIATING THE NEED "TO SUBSTITUTE ANOTHE REVOLUTIONARY FORCE."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW10090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750250-0279
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750743/aaaablzi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET COMMENTS ON PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, PO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006